

PATENT APPLICATION

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C L A I M S

1. A lid member for a food container having a layered structure in which a surface sheet is laid on a composite sheet, the lid member comprises:

5        said surface sheet including an easily-peelable portion capable of being easily separated from the composite sheet, said easily-peelable portion formed by applying a lubricant between the surface sheet and the composite sheet, said surface sheet including a non-peelable portion adjacent to said easily-peelable portion;

10      a first slit cut vertically-sectionally through the composite sheet, said first slit defining one or more apertures in said lid to form an opening area in said composite sheet;

15      a second slit in said surface sheet defining a boundary between the easily-peelable portion and said non-peelable portion of said surface sheet; and

      said surface sheet being adhered to said composite sheet at said composite sheet opening area over an area that is smaller than said composite sheet opening area.

2. The lid member according to claim 1, wherein said lubricant is applied between the surface sheet and said composite sheet adjacent to said easily-peelable portion of said surface sheet over only a portion of said opening area in said composite sheet so that the surface sheet can be adhered to said composite sheet over a portion of said opening area where said lubricant is not applied to said opening area.

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3. The lid member according to claim 1, wherein the area of adherence between the surface sheet and the composite sheet at the opening area is from about 1/9 to about 4/9 of the opening area.

4. The lid member according to claim 3, wherein said first slit 5 in said composite sheet defining said opening area is formed circular to have a diameter R, and the surface sheet is adhered to said composite sheet over a portion of said opening area, said portion of said opening area having an area in the range of from  $R/3$  to  $2R/3$  of said surface sheet.

5. The lid member according to claim 4, wherein said circular 10 opening area in the composite sheet, having a diameter R is about  $5.5\text{mm} \leq R \leq$  about 6.5mm, and said portion of said open area adhered to said surface sheet is circular and has a diameter r, wherein  $2.0\text{mm} \leq r \leq$  about 4.3mm.

6. The lid member according to claim 1, wherein said easily-peelable portion of said surface sheet is formed by applying the lubricant 15 thereto in the form of a pattern.

7. The lid member according to claim 6, wherein said easily-peelable portion of said surface sheet is formed by applying the lubricant in the form of a dot-pattern.

8. The lid member according to claim 7, wherein the dot 20 diameter of said lubricant applied in the form of a dot-pattern is from about 0.5mm to about 1.5mm.

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9. The lid member according to claim 6, wherein said easily-peelable portion of said surface sheet is formed by applying the lubricant in the form of a mesh-pattern.

10. The lid member according to claim 9, wherein the mesh size of said lubricant applied in the form of a mesh-pattern is from about 0.3mm to about 0.5mm.

11. The lid member according to claim 6, wherein the area of applied lubricant occupies from about 60% to about 90% of the easily-peelable portion of said surface sheet.

10 12. The lid member according to claim 6, wherein said lid member further comprises an easily-peelable layer formed by applying lubricant in solid form along said second slit.

13. The lid member according to claim 6, wherein said lid member further comprises a tab to open said apertures, said tab formed at the circumferential edge of said easily-peelable portion of said surface sheet.

14. The lid member according to claim 13, wherein the easily-peelable portion of said surface sheet, in the circumferential edge thereof, at said tab and adjacent thereto, is formed by applying lubricant in solid form, and;

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the easily-peelable portion of said surface sheet in the circumferential edge of said easily-peelable portion, except at said tab and adjacent thereto, is an easily-peelable portion of said surface sheet formed by applying lubricant in the form of pattern.

5           15. The lid member according to claim 1, wherein said lubricant comprises wax in an amount of from about 5 wt% to about 95 wt% of said lubricant.

10          16. The lid member according to claim 15, wherein said wax is selected from the group consisting of polyethylene wax, polyester wax, aliphatic amide wax, and a combination thereof.

17. The lid member according to claim 1, wherein said lid member further comprises filling varnish disposed between said easily-peelable portion of said surface sheet and said surface sheet.

15          18. The lid member according to claim 1, wherein said lid member further comprises a notch, cut from the surface sheet to the composite sheet, on said second slit or adjacent thereto, within the circumferential edge.

19. The lid member according to claim 1, wherein said second slit is a slit zone wherein a pair of discontinuous slits, inclined mutually outwardly, provide at least one row of slits.